Remarks

The Office Action mailed March 9, 2006 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-9 and 13-43 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-9 and 13-43 stand rejected.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a), a three-month extension of time is submitted herewith to extend the due date of the response to the Office Action dated March 9, 2006, for the above-identified patent application from June 9, 2006, through and including September 9, 2006. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a)(3), authorization to charge a deposit account in the amount of $1,020.00 to cover this extension of time request also is submitted herewith.

The objection to the abstract for not corresponding to the claimed invention is respectfully traversed. Independent Claims 1, 13, 19, 23, 29, 36, and 40 have been amended to include a step or element that is related to an invoice for payment by the customer. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to the Abstract.

The rejection of Claims 1-9 and 13-43 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention is respectfully traversed. Independent Claims 1, 13, 19, 23, 29, 36, and 40 have been amended to include method steps or structural elements directed to billing a customer for a business entity including transmitting an invoice to a customer for the business entity. Furthermore, Claim 19 has been amended to include data fields within the database is stored on a readable medium. Claim 19 therefore includes structural elements.

For these reasons, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Section 112, second paragraph, rejection to Claims 1-9 and 13-43.

The rejection of Claim 40 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter is respectfully traversed.

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The Office Action asserts on pages 2-3 that the claim appears "to be directed to nothing more than a series of steps...without any useful, concrete and tangible result. While said data may indicate concrete and/or tangible results, there does not appear to be any useful result." Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is moot in light of the amended Claims. Specifically, Claim 40 has been amended to include, *inter alia*, the step of "transmitting an invoice for payment by the customer for usage of the piece of equipment based on the corrected export file." Transmitting an invoice for payment is a useful result.

For the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Section 101 rejection to Claim 40.

The rejection of Claims 1-5, 8, 9, 13-15, 18-25, 28-31, 34-36 and 39-41 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mayle et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,182,022) ("Mayle") in view of Coons et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,832,250) ("Coons") is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that Mayle does not describe or suggest the claimed invention. As discussed below, at least one of the differences between Mayle and the present invention is that Mayle does not describe or suggest a method for performing usage-based billing for a business entity using a local computer system coupled to a database and a remote computer system wherein the business entity has customers subscribing to a usage-based billing program as recited in Claim 1. Specifically, Mayle does not describe or suggest a method that includes inputting into the remote computer system meter data relating to equipment usage by one of the customers, wherein the meter data includes at least one of an amount of usage of a piece of equipment, equipment serial number, model number, meter reading date, and customer name.

Moreover, Applicants submit that Mayle does not describe or suggest a method that includes generating at the local computer a correction report that includes a list of all the data records listed on the error report, a corresponding reason for the data record to be listed on the error report, and a list of possible corrective actions to correct the data record for satisfying the validation rules.

Applicants also submit that Mayle does not describe or suggest a method that includes correcting each data record listed on the error report such that each data record listed on the error

report satisfies the validation rules, generating a corrected export file including the corrected data records, and then transmitting an invoice for payment by the customer for usage of the piece of equipment based on the corrected export file.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that Coons does not make up for the deficiencies of Mayle.

Mayle describes a method and system for automatically constructing a baseline, deriving a threshold, and reconfiguring a fault detection system with the derived threshold. Specifically, Mayle describes a system and method for automatically constructing a baseline for an attribute of a monitored system, calculating a threshold based on the constructed baseline, and feeding the threshold back into the monitored system. A metric corresponding to an attribute of interest of the monitored system is extracted and compared with a current normal threshold associated with the attribute. If the extracted metric is not within a limit defined by the current normal threshold, an event notification is generated. A baseline is calculated based on a relevant subset of extracted metrics. From this a new current normal threshold is calculated. In preferred embodiments, an alarm is generated if one or more event notifications meet the conditions of pre-specified rules. Reports are generated which summarize the performance of the monitored attributes, indicate which monitored attributes are out-of-control, and prioritize the order in which out-of-control attributes receive available engineering resources.

Notably, Mayle does not describe or suggest a method for a usage-based billing program that includes generating a correction report, correcting each data record listed on the error report such that each data record listed on the error report satisfies validation rules, generating a corrected export file including the corrected data records, and then transmitting an invoice for payment by the customer for usage of the piece of equipment based on the corrected export file.

Coons describes a method and system for remotely storing usage data associated with monitored assets of an enterprise. The system includes a local data store for storing usage data associated with monitored assets of an enterprise, a usage data aggregation system with access to the local data store for aggregating data from the monitored assets and for storing the aggregated data in the local data store, and a local server also with access to the local data store for supporting the transmission of the stored usage data from the local data store to a remote server.

The system also utilizes a remote server having access to a remote data store. The remote server is utilized to receive the usage data transmitted by the local server. After receiving the data, the remote server stores it in the remote data store. The usage data residing in either the local data store or the remote data store is available for subsequent access, processing and analysis via the local server and the remote server respectively.

Notably, Coons does not describe or suggest applying validation rules to an export file at a local computer system to determine the data records included within the export file that satisfy the validation rules, or generating an error report identifying the data records included within the export file that violate at least one of the validation rules including identifying data records that violate at least one of the validation rules due to at least one of a processing error at the local computer system and an inputting error at the remote computer system. Furthermore, Coons does not describe or suggest generating a correction report, correcting each data record listed on the error report such that each data record listed on the error report satisfies validation rules, generating a corrected export file including the corrected data records, and then transmitting an invoice for payment by the customer for usage of the piece of equipment based on the corrected export file.

Rather, Coons merely describes a system that transmits and stores usage data associated with monitored assets of an enterprise between a local server, a local data store, a remote server and a remote data store.

Claim 1 recites a method for performing usage-based billing for a business entity using a local computer system coupled to a database and a remote computer system, the business entity having customers subscribing to a usage-based billing program, the method includes "inputting into the remote computer system meter data relating to equipment usage by one of the customers, the meter data including at least one of an amount of usage of a piece of equipment, equipment serial number, model number, meter reading date, and customer name...generating an export file by processing the meter data at the remote computer system, the export file including a plurality of data records...transmitting the export file from the remote computer system to the local computer system for storing within the database...applying validation rules to the export file at the local computer system to determine the data records included within the export file that

satisfy the validation rules...generating an error report identifying the data records included within the export file that violate at least one of the validation rules including identifying data records that violate at least one of the validation rules due to at least one of a processing error at the local computer system and an inputting error at the remote computer system... generating at the local computer a correction report including a list of all the data records listed on the error report, a corresponding reason for the data record to be listed on the error report, and a list of possible corrective actions to correct the data record for satisfying the validation rules... correcting each data record listed on the error report such that each data record listed on the error report satisfies the validation rules... generating a corrected export file including the corrected data records...and transmitting an invoice for payment by the customer for usage of the piece of equipment based on the corrected export file."

Applicants respectfully submit that the Section 103 rejection of the presently pending claims is not a proper rejection. As is well established, obviousness cannot be established by combining the teachings of the cited art to produce the claimed invention, absent some teaching, suggestion, or incentive supporting the combination. Neither Mayle nor Coons, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest the claimed method. Furthermore, in contrast to the assertion within the Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that it would not be obvious to one skilled in the art to combine Mayle and Coons, because there is no motivation to combine the references suggested in the art. Mayle is directed towards reconfiguring a fault detection system and Coons is directed towards a method and system for remotely storing usage data associated with monitored assets of an enterprise. Those skilled in the art would not be motivated by either Mayle or Coons to combine the reference with the other.

As the Federal Circuit has recognized, obviousness is not established merely by combining references having different individual elements of pending claims. Ex parte Levengood, 28 U.S.P.Q.2d 1300 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1993). MPEP 2143.01. Rather, there must be some suggestion, outside of Applicants' disclosure, in the prior art to combine such references, and a reasonable expectation of success must be both found in the prior art, and not based on Applicant's disclosure. In re Vaeck , 20 U.S.P.Q.2d 1436 (Fed. Cir. 1991). In the present case, neither a suggestion or motivation to combine the prior art disclosures, nor any reasonable expectation of success has been shown.

Furthermore, neither Mayle nor Coons describes or suggests a method as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, neither Mayle nor Coons describes or suggests a method for performing usage-based billing for a business entity using a local computer system coupled to a database and a remote computer system that includes generating at the local computer a correction report including a list of all the data records listed on the error report, a corresponding reason for the data record to be listed on the error report, and a list of possible corrective actions to correct the data record for satisfying the validation rules.

Moreover, neither Mayle nor Coons describes or suggests correcting each data record listed on the error report such that each data record listed on the error report satisfies the validation rules, generating a corrected export file including the corrected data records, and then transmitting an invoice for payment by the customer for usage of the piece of equipment based on the corrected export file.

Rather, Mayle merely describes a method and system for automatically constructing a baseline, deriving a threshold, and reconfiguring a fault detection system with the derived threshold. Furthermore, Coons simply describes a system for remotely storing usage data associated with monitored assets of an enterprise that includes a local data store for storing usage data associated with monitored assets of an enterprise, a usage data aggregation system with access to the local data store for aggregating data from the monitored assets and for storing the aggregated data in the local data store, and a local server with access to the local data store for supporting the transmission of the stored usage data from the local data store to a remote server for storing the data in a remote data store.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is patentable over Mayle in view of Coons.

For at least the reasons as set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of Claim 1 be withdrawn.

Claims 2-5 and 8-9 depend from independent Claim 1 which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claims 2-5 and 8-9 are considered in

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combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 2-5 and 8-9 are also patentable over Mayle in view of Coons.

Claim 13 recites a computer for performing usage-based billing for a business entity having customers subscribing to a usage-based billing program, the computer comprising a processor in communication with a database, the computer programmed to "receive meter data relating to equipment usage by one of the customers, the meter data including at least one of an amount of usage of a piece of equipment, equipment serial number, model number, meter reading date, and customer name...generate an export file by processing the meter data, the export file including a plurality of data records...store the export file within the database...apply validation rules to the export file to determine the data records included within the export file that satisfy the validation rules...generate an error report identifying the data records included within the export file that violate at least one of the validation rules including identifying data records that violate at least one of the validation rules due to at least one of a processing error and an inputting error...generate a correction report including a list of all the data records listed on the error report, a corresponding reason for the data record to be listed on the error report, and a list of possible corrective actions to correct the data record for satisfying the validation rules...prompt a user associated with the business entity to correct each data record listed on the error report such that each data record listed on the error report satisfies the validation rules...generate a corrected export file including the corrected data records...and transmit an invoice for payment by the customer for usage of the piece of equipment based on the corrected export file."

Claim 13, as herein amended, recites a computer for performing usage-based billing for a business entity that is programmed to perform steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 1. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 13 is patentable over Mayle in view of Coons for reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 1.

For at least the reasons as set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of Claim 13 be withdrawn.

Claims 14-15 and 18 depend from independent Claim 13 which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claims 14-15 and 18 are considered in

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combination with the recitations of Claim 13, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 14-15 and 18 are also patentable over Mayle in view of Coons.

Claim 19 recites a database for performing usage-based billing for a business entity, the business entity having customers subscribing to a usage-based billing program, the database is stored on a readable medium and includes "data corresponding to meter data relating to equipment usage by one of the customers, the meter data including at least one of an amount of usage of a piece of equipment, equipment serial number, model number, meter reading date, and customer name...data corresponding to an export file generated by processing the meter data, the export file including a plurality of data records...data corresponding to validation rules applied to the export file to determine the data records included within the export file that satisfy the validation rules...data corresponding to a generated error report identifying the data records included within the export file that violate at least one of the validation rules including identifying data records that violate at least one of the validation rules due to at least one of a processing error and an inputting error...data corresponding to a generated correction report including a list of all the data records listed on the error report, a corresponding reason for the data record to be listed on the error report, and a list of possible corrective actions to correct the data record for satisfying the validation rules...data corresponding to a prompt for display on a computer for correcting each data record listed on the error report such that each data record listed on the error report satisfies the validation rules...data corresponding to a generated corrected export file including the corrected data records...and data corresponding to transmitting an invoice for payment by the customer for usage of the piece of equipment based on the corrected export file."

Claim 19, as herein amended, recites a database for performing usage-based billing for a business entity that includes data corresponding to the steps recited in Claim 1. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 19 is patentable over Mayle in view of Coons for reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 1.

For at least the reasons as set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of Claim 19 be withdrawn.

Claims 20-22 depend from independent Claim 19 which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claims 20-22 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 19, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 20-22 are also patentable over Mayle in view of Coons.

Claim 23 recites a system for performing usage-based billing for a business entity having customers subscribing to a usage-based billing program, the system includes "a client system comprising a browser, the client system configured to...receive meter data relating to equipment usage by one of the customers including at least one of an amount of usage of a piece of equipment, equipment serial number, model number, meter reading date, and customer name, and generate an export file by processing the meter data, the export file including a plurality of data records...a database for storing information...and a server configured to be coupled to the client system and the database, the server system further configured to...receive the export file from the client system...apply validation rules to the export file to determine the data records included within the export file that satisfy the validation rules...generate an error report identifying the data records included within the export file that violate at least one of the validation rules including identifying data records that violate at least one of the validation rules due to at least one of a processing error at the server system and an input error at the client system... generate a correction report including a list of all the data records listed on the error report, a corresponding reason for the data record to be listed on the error report, and a list of possible corrective actions to correct the data record for satisfying the validation rules...prompt a user associated with the business entity to correct each data record listed on the error report such that each data record listed on the error report satisfies the validation rules...generate a corrected export file including the corrected data records...and transmit an invoice for payment by the customer for usage of the piece of equipment based on the corrected export file."

Claim 23, as herein amended, recites a system for performing usage-based billing for a business entity that includes, among other things, a server system configured to perform steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 1. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 23 is patentable over Mayle in view of Coons for reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 1.

For at least the reasons as set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of Claim 23 be withdrawn.

Claims 24-25 and 28 depend from independent Claim 23 which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claims 24-25 and 28 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 23, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 24-25 and 28 are also patentable over Mayle in view of Coons.

Claim 29 recites an apparatus for performing usage-based billing for a business entity having customers subscribing to a usage-based billing program, the apparatus includes "means for receiving meter data relating to equipment usage by one of the customers, the meter data including at least one of an amount of usage of a piece of equipment, equipment serial number, model number, meter reading date, and customer name...means for generating an export file by processing the meter data, the export file including a plurality of data records...means for applying validation rules to the export file to determine the data records included within the export file that satisfy the validation rules...means for generating an error report identifying the data records included within the export file that violate at least one of the validation rules including identifying data records that violate at least one of the validation rules due to at least one of a processing error and an inputting error...means for generating a correction report including a list of all the data records listed on the error report, a corresponding reason for the data record to be listed on the error report, and a list of possible corrective actions to correct the data record for satisfying the validation rules...means for prompting a user associated with the business entity to correct each data record listed on the error report such that each data record listed on the error report satisfies the validation rules...means for generating a corrected export file including the corrected data records...and means for transmitting an invoice for payment by the customer for usage of the piece of equipment based on the corrected export file."

Claim 29, as herein amended, recites an apparatus for performing usage-based billing for a business entity that includes means for performing steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 1. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 29 is patentable over Mayle in view of Coons for reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 1.

For at least the reasons as set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of Claim 29 be withdrawn.

Claims 30-31 and 34-35 depend from independent Claim 29 which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claims 30-31 and 34-35 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 29, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 30-31 and 34-35 are also patentable over Mayle in view of Coons.

Claim 36 recites a computer program embodied on a computer-readable medium executable by a computer for performing usage-based billing for a business entity having customers subscribing to a usage-based billing program, the program including at least one code segment that "receives meter data relating to equipment usage by one of the customers, the meter data including at least one of an amount of usage of a piece of equipment, equipment serial number, model number, meter reading date, and customer name...generates an export file by processing the meter data, the export file including a plurality of data records...stores the export file within a database...applies validation rules to the export file to determine the data records included within the export file that satisfy the validation rules...generates an error report identifying the data records included within the export file that violate at least one of the validation rules including identifying data records that violate at least one of the validation rules due to at least one of a processing error and an inputting error...generates a correction report including a list of all the data records listed on the error report, a corresponding reason for the data record to be listed on the error report, and a list of possible corrective actions to correct the data record for satisfying the validation rules...prompts a user associated with the business entity to correct each data record listed on the error report such that each data record listed on the error report satisfies the validation rules...generates a corrected export file including the corrected data records...and transmits an invoice for payment by the customer for usage of the piece of equipment based on the corrected export file."

Claim 36, as herein amended, recites a computer program that includes at least one code segment that performs steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 1. Thus, it is submitted that Claim 36 is patentable over Mayle in view of Coons for reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 1.

For at least the reasons as set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of Claim 36 be withdrawn.

Claim 39 depends from independent Claim 36 which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claim 39 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 36, Applicants submit that dependent Claim 39 is also patentable over Mayle in view of Coons.

Claim 40 recites a method for performing usage-based billing for a business entity using a local computer system coupled to a database and a remote computer system, the business entity having customers subscribing to a usage-based billing program, the method includes "receiving at the remote computer system meter data relating to equipment usage by one of the customers, the meter data including at least one of an amount of usage of a piece of equipment, equipment serial number, model number, meter reading date, and customer name...generating an export file by processing the meter data at the remote computer system, the export file including a plurality of data records...transmitting the export file from the remote computer system to the local computer system for storing within the database...applying validation rules to the export file at the local computer system to determine the data records included within the export file that satisfy the validation rules...identifying the data records included within the export file that violate at least one of the validation rules including identifying data records that violate at least one of the validation rules due to at least one of a processing error at the local computer system and an receiving error at the remote computer system... generating a correction report including a list of all the data records listed on the error report, a corresponding reason for the data record to be listed on the error report, and a list of possible corrective actions to correct the data record for satisfying the validation rules...prompting a user associated with the business entity to correct each data record listed on the error report such that each data record listed on the error report satisfies the validation rules...generating a corrected export file including the corrected data records...and transmitting an invoice for payment by the customer for usage of the piece of equipment based on the corrected export file."

Claim 40, as herein amended, recites a method for performing usage-based billing for a business entity that includes steps essentially similar to those recited in Claim 1. Thus, it is

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submitted that Claim 40 is patentable over Mayle in view of Coons for reasons that correspond to those given with respect to Claim 1.

For at least the reasons as set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of Claim 40 be withdrawn.

Claim 41 depends from independent Claim 40 which is submitted to be in condition for allowance. When the recitations of Claim 41 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 40, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 41 is also patentable over Mayle in view of Coons.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 1-5, 8, 9, 13-15, 18-25, 28-31, 34-36 and 39-41 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 6, 7, 16, 17, 26, 27, 32, 33, 37, 38, 42, and 43 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mayle in view of Coons and further in view of Bossen (U.S. Patent No. 3,582,878) ("Bossen") is respectfully traversed.

Mayle and Coons are described above. Bossen describes an error correcting system capable of correcting multiple random errors in data messages of $k \leq m^2$ data bits where m is an integer.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Section 103 rejection of the presently pending claims is not a proper rejection. As is well established, obviousness cannot be established by combining the teachings of the cited art to produce the claimed invention, absent some teaching, suggestion, or incentive supporting the combination. Neither Mayle nor Coons, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest the claimed method. Furthermore, in contrast to the assertion within the Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that it would not be obvious to one skilled in the art to combine Mayle and Coons, because there is no motivation to combine the references suggested in the art. Mayle is directed towards reconfiguring a fault detection system and Coons is directed towards a method and system for remotely storing usage data associated with monitored assets of an enterprise. Bossen simply describes an error correcting system capable of correcting multiple random errors. Those skilled in the art would not be motivated by any of Mayle, Coons, and Bossen to combine with the others.

As the Federal Circuit has recognized, obviousness is not established merely by combining references having different individual elements of pending claims. Ex parte Levengood, 28 U.S.P.Q.2d 1300 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1993). MPEP 2143.01. Rather, there must be some suggestion, outside of Applicants' disclosure, in the prior art to combine such references, and a reasonable expectation of success must be both found in the prior art, and not based on Applicant's disclosure. In re Vaeck , 20 U.S.P.Q.2d 1436 (Fed. Cir. 1991). In the present case, neither a suggestion or motivation to combine the prior art disclosures, nor any reasonable expectation of success has been shown.

Furthermore, as discussed above, neither Mayle nor Coons describes or suggests the method recited in Claim 1 (recited hereinabove). Claims 6 and 7 depend from independent Claim 1.

Bossen does not make up for the deficiencies of Mayle and Coons. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 is patentable over Mayle in view of Coons and further in view of Bossen.

When the recitations of Claims 6 and 7 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 6 and 7 likewise are patentable over Mayle in view of Coons and further in view of Bossen.

Claims 16 and 17 depend from independent Claim 13. Claim 13 is recited hereinabove.

As discussed above, neither Mayle nor Coons describes or suggests the method recited in Claim 13. Bossen does not make up for the deficiencies of Mayle and Coons. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 13 is patentable over Mayle in view of Coons and further in view of Bossen.

When the recitations of Claims 16 and 17 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 13, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 16 and 17 likewise are patentable over Mayle in view of Coons and further in view of Bossen.

Claims 26 and 27 depend from independent Claim 23. Claim 23 is recited hereinabove.

As discussed above, neither Mayle nor Coons describes or suggests the method recited in Claim 23. Bossen does not make up for the deficiencies of Mayle and Coons. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 23 is patentable over Mayle in view of Coons and further in view of Bossen.

When the recitations of Claims 26 and 27 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 23, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 26 and 27 likewise are patentable over Mayle in view of Coons and further in view of Bossen.

Claims 32 and 33 depend from independent Claim 29. Claim 29 is recited hereinabove.

As discussed above, neither Mayle nor Coons describes or suggests the method recited in Claim 29. Bossen does not make up for the deficiencies of Mayle and Coons. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 29 is patentable over Mayle in view of Coons and further in view of Bossen.

When the recitations of Claims 32 and 33 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 29, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 32 and 33 likewise are patentable over Mayle in view of Coons and further in view of Bossen.

Claims 37 and 38 depend from independent Claim 36. Claim 36 is recited hereinabove.

As discussed above, neither Mayle nor Coons describes or suggests the method recited in Claim 36. Bossen does not make up for the deficiencies of Mayle and Coons. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 36 is patentable over Mayle in view of Coons and further in view of Bossen.

When the recitations of Claims 37 and 38 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 36, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 37 and 38 likewise are patentable over Mayle in view of Coons and further in view of Bossen.

Claims 42 and 43 depend from independent Claim 40. Claim 40 is recited hereinabove.

As discussed above, neither Mayle nor Coons describes or suggests the method recited in Claim 40. Bossen does not make up for the deficiencies of Mayle and Coons. Accordingly, for
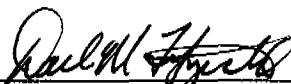
at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 40 is patentable over Mayle in view of Coons and further in view of Bossen.

When the recitations of Claims 42 and 43 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 40, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 42 and 43 likewise are patentable over Mayle in view of Coons and further in view of Bossen.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 6, 7, 16, 17, 26, 27, 32, 33, 37, 38, 42, and 43 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel M. Fitzgerald
Registration No. 38,880
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740
(314) 621-5070